



Ellen Duncan Taylor 1986

ELLEN DUNCAN TAYLOR

I was born in Rock Hill, SC, but moved to Winnsboro at the age of nine. As for fast dancing, as it used to be called, it has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember.

My father was Recreation Director at the Winnsboro Community Center and provided an area for dancing. He kept the most popular music of the fifties on the jukebox for us to dance to and enjoy. One of his dearest friends during those days was Billy Jeffers who was also a Recreation director in his home town. Basketball, softball, and cheerleading were very important to me at that time, but nothing could take the place of my love for dancing.

Trips to Myrtle Beach, Folly Beach, Cherry Grove, and Ocean Drive were frequent as a teenager. Our weeks of vacation were spent at Cherry Grove and because my dad as President of the S.C. Recreation Association, he attended several meetings at Myrtle Beach. It was at the Myrtle Beach Pavilion that I saw JoJo Putnam dance for the first time. He was "performing" in the dance area near the jukebox and had a crowd around him watching him dance. I had seen a lot of different styles of the dance, but never had I seen anyone dance as he did. What a thrill it was for him to ask me to dance with him when I saw him again many years later at "Fanny's" in Columbia.

When I moved to Columbia to attend college, Carl and I began dating. We enjoyed many nights, together, dancing to shag music (live bands) at "The Web" where the college crowd and their dates spent much of their time. There were other clubs in the area which we also "toured". Some of the male dancers I remember most at that time were Talmadge Joyner, Billy Pack, Johnny Dodd, Tommy Powell, and Tommy White.

Carl and I were married in 1959 and shortly after moved to Charleston, S.C. The Folly Beach Pavilion was presenting groups on the weekends for entertainment. Performers such as Fats Domino, Ray Charles and The Drifters were a few that we had the privilege of seeing and dancing to at this new "hang out" for those of us that loved to shag. A few years later we started our family so our shagging was put on hold for awhile, but my love for the dance never changed and, what better way is there to meet people and make new friends.

I would like to say "thank you" to all of the Hall of Fame members for allowing me to be a part of this special group. what a thrill it is to be included and such a great honor.